

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 674

By Bunch

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Ross Tarver for laudable service to the people of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who, through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Ross Tarver, Vice President and General Manager of Tarver Distributing Co. Inc., a distributor of Anheuser-Busch products, who was named the Mel Bedwell Small Businessperson of the Year at the kickoff luncheon for Business Development Month on May 9, 2005; and

WHEREAS, from the age of twelve, Ross Tarver proved to be a key figure in the administration of his parents' wholesale plant; starting off with such minor tasks as emptying the trash and cleaning floors, the young Ross Tarver soon graduated to operating forklifts and pallet jacks in the warehouse, unloading railcars from the brewery, and then reloading the cars with empty pallets and kegs; and

WHEREAS, within a matter of years, Mr. Tarver had ascended the ranks in the warehouse business, serving as a driver salesman's helper and a full-time draught driver-salesman, while attending Cleveland State Community College; and

WHEREAS, in 1983, Ross Tarver received honors from both the supervisors and staff of Tarver Distributing as Driver-Salesman of the Year and Anheuser-Busch for outstanding sales; and

WHEREAS, after the death of his father, Mr. Ross Tarver became sales and operations manager of his family's business, in which position he implemented fresh approaches for day-to-day operations, conducted all sales meetings, instituted new promotions and incentives to

increase sales, established relationships with area convenience store executives, handled bids and purchasing of new equipment, and hired new employees; and

WHEREAS, in 1986, Mr. Tarver received a promotion to the Assistant General Manager Position, which position he held until the age of twenty-five when he was promoted to Vice President and General Manager of Sales and Operations, becoming the youngest person ever approved by the brewery to hold such a position; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure as Vice President and General Manager of Sales and Operations, Ross Tarver has doubled his company's number of employees from sixteen to thirty-nine and increased its market share from 49 to 65 percent and yearly sales from 558,000 cases to 1,200,000 cases; and

WHEREAS, as a result of Mr. Tarver's exceptional leadership and managerial skills, Tarver Distributing received the Wholesaler of the Year Award for Tennessee in 1989 and 2004; in 2003, Ross Tarver was awarded the Collins J. Bennie Award, which recognizes a small business person who exemplifies a passion for hard work and a true entrepreneurial spirit; and

WHEREAS, deeply committed to his local community, Mr. Tarver lends his considerable skills and talents to the Cleveland/Bradley Chamber of Commerce, which he serves on the Board of Directors, Economic Development Council, and Executive Committee; the Bradley/Cleveland Industrial Development Board, which he serves as Chair; the Business/Foundations Committee at Bradley Memorial Hospital; and the Citizen Action Committee at the Cleveland Police Department; and

WHEREAS, Ross Tarver further contributes his time to the Bradley County Sheriff's Department, the Charleston Police Department, United Way of Cleveland, Junior Achievement of Bradley and McMinn Counties, the Cleveland Family YMCA, the Cleveland Creative Arts Guild, Friends of the Library, the Bradley County Rescue, the Charleston Fire Department, the Muscular Dystrophy Association, the Cleveland Sports for Youth Program, and the American Heart Association; and

WHEREAS, a standing member of the Tennessee Malt Beverage Association, Mr. Tarver has served the Association on the Board of Directors and Convention Committees and currently serves as Chairman of the Legislative Committee; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Ross Tarver for his energy, innovation, and commitment to professional excellence and his dedication to his community and the State of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Mr. Ross Tarver upon being named the Mel Bedwell Small Businessperson of the Year, thank him for his meritorious service to his community, and extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.